



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Attorney Docket No. 114049-125 US1)

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04/20/04

Applicant: Alcorn et al.

Examiner: Nguyen, Thanh T.

Serial No.: 09/608,208

Art Unit: 2143

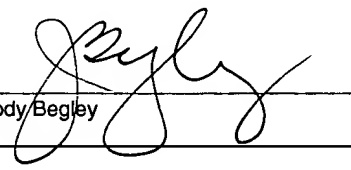
Filed: 06/30/2000

For: INTERNET-BASED EDUCATION SUPPORT SYSTEM AND METHODS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any enclosures referenced herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 4/6, 2004.

  
Jody Begley

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

An office action was issued on October 6, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected each of pending claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,505,031 issued to Slider et al. ("Slider"). Reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested.

These claim rejections should be withdrawn because Slider cannot be properly applied to the claims under § 102(e). Slider has a filing date of February 25, 2000, which while is before the filing date of the present application, is after the filing date of two of the three provisional patent applications on which the present application claims priority. The two provisional applications predating Slider are (1) U.S. patent

Application Serial No. 09/608,208  
Amendment dated 06/30/2000  
Reply to Office Action dated October 6, 2003

application serial no. 60/141,283 (the '283 application) filed on June 30, 1999, and (2) U.S. patent application serial no. 60/141,864 (the '864 application) filed on July 1, 1999.

Various claims in the present application, including all three independent claims, have clear support in at least the '864 application. As the '864 application (and accordingly Applicants' date of invention) predates Slider's filing date, the reference cannot be properly applied to the present application under § 102(e). Accordingly, the rejections based on Slider should be withdrawn.

As the claims of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with this submission, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 6, 2004